

"Yea" on H. Con. Res. 94—Direct Support Professional Recognition.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a fine organization, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) which provides public transportation in the Denver metropolitan area. RTD provides a reliable and efficient service to the citizens of Colorado, and was recently recognized with the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Award. For its years of excellence and reliability, and its ongoing efforts to improve its service, I am honored to pay tribute to RTD and its employees here today.

Over the years, RTD has worked hard to serve the citizens of Denver, and continues to expand throughout the metropolitan area, serving more and more people each day. Even more impressive than its growth is RTD's commitment to safety and dependability. The administration has pursued an aggressive campaign to improve the safety of the public transportation system with stellar success: the accident rate has been cut in half and is at an all-time low. RTD is also dedicated to making public transportation available to all citizens, installing wheelchair lifts on their whole fleet and providing curb-to-curb service to people unable to use lift-equipped buses.

Mr. Speaker, the Regional Transportation District is committed to providing the people of Denver with safe and reliable public transportation. The employees of RTD continue to work hard to improve the system and to meet the needs of the Denver community. I am honored to join my colleagues here today in recognizing these worthy accomplishments.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to express my frustration with the ongoing situation in Burma. For the past three years, the United Nations, with the full support of the United States, has attempted to spur talks between 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi's political party the National League for Democracy, Burma's ruling military regime, and the country's ethnic groups.

Let me be blunt—that effort and the effort of the U.N. envoy designated to carry it out has failed. It has failed mainly because the regime refuses to participate in the talks. While the regime promises, as it has for the past fifteen years, to make a transition to democracy, there is absolutely zero evidence to suggest that this is true.

To make matters worse, the regime has been attacking and killing the very people they are supposed to be talking to. In May of this

year, the regime attacked and killed scores of Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters. Just last month, the regime attacked and killed members of the Karen ethnic group. And, just a few days ago, the regime opened fire on a demonstration of Buddhist monks, killing one and injuring many more.

We need to breathe new life into this United Nations process, and that will require a serious diplomatic effort. To start with, we need a new United Nations special envoy for Burma—the present envoy's efforts have failed and he as of late has done nothing more than provide political cover for the regime. Second, we need the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution condemning Burma. Third, the State Department must unequivocally reject "roadmaps" that have been promised by the Burmese regime and their Thai counterparts.

I believe that democracy is possible in Burma, and we agree with Secretary Powell when he said that we need to rally international support to stand up to Burma's "thugs". We need to move quickly to ensure that these words are acted upon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, due to a district commitment, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 597 through 601. Had I been present, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote no. 598, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 599, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 600, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote no. 601, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHINICHI KOBAYASHI

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an extraordinary man. Earlier this year Shinichi Kobayashi traveled from his native Japan to Montrose, Colorado. He did this for one reason: to promote friendship and understanding between the children of our two nations.

A veteran educator, Shinichi has taught junior high school in Tokyo for fifteen years. He comes to the United States as part of the International Internship Program, which attempts to organize cultural exchanges in order to promote international understanding. Currently, Mr. Kobayashi is sharing the Japanese culture with students from Cottonwood Elementary School. In addition to teaching, Mr. Kobayashi has become involved in after-school activities in his local community as well. In exchange, the children have taught Shinichi about American culture and the English language, lessons Shinichi will take back with him to Tokyo.

Mr. Speaker, Shinichi Kobayashi has dedicated his time and effort to promoting mutual

understanding and goodwill between Japan and the United States. As the result of this dedication, many of Colorado's young people have had the opportunity to experience Japanese culture firsthand. For his efforts to advance understanding and promote international cooperation, I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Shinichi Kobayashi here today.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF MR. JOSEPH SHEPP

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Shepp, who has been awarded the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service in the State of Nevada for 2003. The Andrus Award honors the outstanding volunteering efforts of AARP volunteers and members in every state.

Mr. Shepp provides yet another example of service and volunteerism to the Southern Nevada community. He has demonstrated his service to the community through his service and commitment to organizations like Seniors and Law Enforcement Together and the Senior Assisted Living Project. We in Southern Nevada are fortunate to find yet another role model in Mr. Shepp. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 602 and 603. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 602: "yea" and rollcall No. 603: "yea."

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN AUBREY "FRANK" SPOONER, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 27, the Second Congressional District of Georgia and the entire U.S. House suffered an irreparable loss with the passing of Franklin Aubrey "Frank" Spooner, Jr., who served as a case worker in our Albany, Georgia office for the past six years.

Many people have served in this institution longer but no one could have possibly served with greater courage, commitment, or concern and compassion for the people we strive to help. Although he suffered from a life-threatening health condition when he joined our staff, and was eventually given a terminal diagnosis, Frank worked as often and as hard as he could to the end. Even when death was